

New 'disinformation' board paused amid free speech questions

By NOMAAN MERCHANT and AMANDA SEITZ
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday paused a new and controversial board's work on disinformation and accepted the resignation of its leader, capping weeks of concerns about impinging on free speech rights and at times frenzied conspiracy theories about the board itself.

What remains to be seen is whether the debate over the board will damage ongoing U.S. efforts to counter disinformation used as a weapon by Russia and other adversaries.

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas acknowledged the board had become a distraction to the department's other work, which includes safeguarding U.S. elections, two officials familiar with his decision said.

The Disinformation Governance Board's director, Nina Jankowicz, wrote Wednesday that the board's future was "uncertain," according to a resignation letter obtained by The Associated Press.

While the board has not formally been shuttered, it will be reviewed by members of a DHS advisory council that's expected to make recommendations in 75 days. The Washington Post first reported the board's pause.



White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

Continued on Page 2

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New 'disinformation' board paused amid free speech questions

Continued from Front

Federal and state agencies treat disinformation as a national security threat. In a statement announcing its launch, DHS said the new initiative would coordinate efforts around threats of Russian disinformation campaigns aimed at the U.S. and false claims that encourage migrants to travel to the U.S.-Mexico border. But the new board was hampered from the start by questions about its purpose, funding and work with an uneven rollout that further confused its mission. Mayorkas struggled to answer questions about the board's work in front of lawmakers on Capitol Hill earlier this month.

Mayorkas made the decision to pause the board in response to the cumulative negative reaction and growing concerns that it was distracting from the department's other work on disinformation, according to two department officials who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations. "The Board has been grossly and intentionally mischaracterized: it was never about censorship or policing speech in any manner," the department said in a statement. "It was



Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, speaks during a Senate Appropriations - Subcommittee on Homeland Security, Wednesday, May 4, 2022, on Capitol Hill in Washington. Associated Press

designed to ensure we fulfill our mission to protect the homeland, while protecting core Constitutional rights." White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre noted the board had never met and neither the department nor Jankowicz had any power to censor or remove content labeled as disinformation. DHS officials had tried to quell concerns about how the board would impact issues of free speech and online privacy by describ-

ing it as an internal working group intended to study definitions of disinformation across the department. But opponents remained unconvinced about the board's work and purpose. The top Republicans on the House intelligence and homeland security committees issued a joint statement Wednesday calling the board "a political tool to be wielded by the party in control." "This board was only successful in reinforcing that

the Department of Homeland Security's priorities are severely misplaced," wrote Reps. Mike Turner of Ohio and John Katko of New York, who previously said DHS had not disclosed information to them about the program. Sen. Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican, told Mayorkas the board was a "terrible idea" that "communicates to the world that we're going to be spreading propaganda in our own country." Twenty Republican attor-

neys general, led by Jason Miyares of Virginia, threatened Mayorkas with legal action over the board "unless you turn back now and disband this Orwellian Disinformation Governance Board immediately," Miyares said in a statement. Reception online and across conservative television shows to the board was even worse. The phrase "Ministry of Truth" — a reference to George Orwell's "1984" — trended on Twitter in discussions about the board. Conservative pundits and social media users pushed conspiracy theories and falsehoods around its purpose, with some falsely claiming the board was quickly developed by DHS in response to billionaire Elon Musk's quest to buy Twitter. Others put out false claims that Jankowicz planned to edit the tweets of everyday Twitter users. "It's been really mischaracterized from the beginning," said Cindy Otis, a disinformation researcher and former CIA analyst. Experts on disinformation warned the controversy around the board could hurt existing efforts to identify and stop the spread of false narratives about elections and hot-button issues in American society. □



President Joe Biden speaks during a briefing on preparing for and responding to hurricanes this season at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., Wednesday May 18, 2022. Associated Press

By **ZEKE MILLER** and **CHRIS MEGERIAN**
Associated Press
JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md.
(AP) — President Joe Biden warned Wednesday that the country will likely see

"another tough hurricane season" this year, and he pledged that his administration was prepared to respond to the storms and help Americans recover from them.

Biden warns of 'another tough hurricane season' this year

"We know hurricanes are coming our way. They grow more extreme every season," Biden said before a briefing from top federal officials, including Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Deanne Criswell and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Marcia Fudge. Biden urged Americans to "pay attention to hurricane warnings and follow the guidance of your local authorities." Before his remarks, Biden toured a hangar at Joint Base Andrews to view aircraft used to track and respond to hurricanes.

One of the planes is used to fly through and above the storms, capturing data that allow meteorologists to produce more accurate forecasts. "It is really amazing what you all do to protect us," Biden said. Last year's worst storm was Hurricane Ida, which resulted in \$75 billion in damage and 55 deaths. Although the initial impact was in Louisiana, where the category four storm made landfall, it also caused heavy rain and flooding in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast. Biden visited damaged neighborhoods in New Jersey and New York after Ida struck, warn-

ing that climate change has become "everybody's crisis" and represents a "code red" danger. "The threat is here. It is not getting any better," Biden said then. "The question is can it get worse. We can stop it from getting worse." This year, Colorado State, the University of Arizona and Accuweather are all forecasting a busier-than-average hurricane season. Kenneth Graham, director of the National Hurricane Center, frequently points out that the United States has had more category 4 and 5 hurricanes make landfall from 2017 to 2021 than from 1963 to 2016. □

A third of U.S. should be considering masks, officials say

By ZEKE MILLER and
MIKE STOBBE

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — COVID-19 cases are increasing in the United States — and could get even worse over the coming months, federal health officials warned Wednesday in urging areas hardest hit to consider reissuing calls for indoor masking. Increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations are putting more of the country under guidelines issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that call for masking and other infection precautions.

Right now, about a third of the U.S. population lives in areas that are considered at higher risk mostly in the Northeast and Midwest. Those are areas where people should already be considering wearing masks indoors but Americans elsewhere should also take notice, officials said.

"Prior increases of infections, in different waves of infection, have demonstrated that this travels across the country," said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the CDC director, said at a White House briefing with reporters.

For an increasing number of areas, "we urge local leaders to encourage use of prevention strategies like masks in public indoor set-



White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha speaks during the daily briefing at the White House in Washington, April 26, 2022.

tings and increasing access to testing and treatment," she said. However, officials were cautious about making concrete predictions, saying how much worse the pandemic gets will depend on several factors, including to what degree previous infections will protect against new variants. Last week, White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha warned in an interview with The Associated Press the U.S. will be increasingly vulnerable to the coronavirus this fall and winter if Congress doesn't swiftly approve new funding for more vaccines and

treatments.

Jha warned that without additional funding from Congress for the virus would cause "unnecessary loss of life" in the fall and winter, when the U.S. runs out of treatments.

He added the U.S. was already falling behind other nations in securing supplies of the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines and said that the domestic manufacturing base of at-home tests is already drying up as demand drops off.

Jha said domestic test manufacturers have started shuttering lines and laying off workers, and in the

coming weeks will begin to sell off equipment and prepare to exit the business of producing tests entirely unless the U.S. government has money to purchase more tests, like the hundreds of millions it has sent out for free to requesting households this year.

That would leave the U.S. reliant on other countries for testing supplies, risking shortages during a surge, Jha warned. About 8.5 million households placed orders for the latest tranche of 8 free tests since ordering opened on Monday, Jha added. The pandemic is now 2 1/2 years old. And

Associated Press

the U.S. has seen depending how you count them five waves of COVID-19 during that time, with the later surges driven by mutated versions of the coronavirus. A fifth wave occurred mainly in December and January, caused by the omicron variant.

The omicron variant spread much more easily than earlier versions.

Some experts are worried the country now is seeing signs of a sixth wave, driven by an omicron subvariant. On Wednesday, Walensky noted a steady increase in COVID-19 cases in the past five weeks, including a 26% increase nationally in the last week.

Hospitalizations also are rising, up 19% in the past week, though they remain much lower than during the omicron wave, she said.

In late February, as that wave was ebbing, the CDC released a new set of measures for communities where COVID-19 was easing its grip, with less of a focus on positive test results and more on what's happening at hospitals.

Walensky said more than 32% of the country currently live in an area with medium or high COVID-19 community levels, including more than 9% in the highest level, where CDC recommends that masks and other mitigation efforts be used. □

Panel recommends replacing Massachusetts seal, motto

BOSTON (AP) — The commission put together to study the racial implications of the Massachusetts state seal and motto has voted unanimously to recommend that both be replaced.

The Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth, made up of lawmakers, members of Indigenous tribes, historians and others, made the decision at its meeting on Tuesday, GBH News reported.

The current seal that appears on state flags, which dates to the late 19th century, features a depiction

of a Native American man beneath a colonist's arm

brandishing a sword. Critics say it references the defeat

of local tribes at the hands of English colonists centuries ago.

The state's Latin motto that translates into English as, "By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty," dates to about 1659 and is attributed to English politician Algernon Sydney, according to the secretary of state's office. Brian Boyles, co-chair of the 20-member commission, pointed out at Tuesday's meeting that the face on the seal was based on a photograph from the Bureau of Ethnology in Washington, D.C., of Thomas Little Shell, a Chippewa

leader who never lived in Massachusetts.

"No Native residents were consulted in this selection," Boyles said.

"It's a reflection of centuries of intentional exclusion on the part of the Commonwealth from land, laws, and historical records of Indigenous residents." The next step is seeking new designs to the seal and motto.

The commission was created by the state Legislature in early 2021 and was supposed to complete its work by the end of this year, but has asked for an extension until next March. □



In this Monday, May 2, 2016, file photo, the Massachusetts state flag flies in front of Boston City Hall.

Associated Press

After Buffalo massacre, N.Y. governor seeks action on guns

By **MARINA VILLENEUVE**

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York would require state police to seek court orders to keep guns away from people who might pose a threat to themselves or others under a package of executive orders and gun control bills touted Wednesday by Gov. Kathy Hochul in the aftermath of a racist attack on a Buffalo supermarket.

The Democrat's announcement came days after a white 18-year-old wearing military gear killed 10 Black shoppers and workers at the supermarket using a rifle purchased legally a few months ago.

New York is among states that have a so-called "red flag" law, which allows law enforcement officials to petition a court to take away someone's firearms if they are potentially dangerous because of a mental health problem.

That law was in place last spring when state police questioned Gendron over comments he made as a senior at Susquehanna Valley High School about wanting to commit a murder-suicide. He was taken to a hospital for a psychiatric evaluation under a state mental health law, and released a day and a half later.



In this image taken from video, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul shows an executive order she signed during a news conference, Wednesday, May 18, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

State Police did not, however, initiate the court process to temporarily take away Gendron's access to guns following the incident. Hochul said state police must now file for extreme risk protection orders under New York's red flag law when they have probable

cause to believe someone is a threat to themselves or others.

New York will also track and try to stop violent domestic extremism on social media through new units in the state police and the state's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

The new units will fund local threat assessment management teams, as well as track and intervene when people show signs of radicalization through their social media posts.

New York will also train law enforcement, school and mental health professionals about the uptick in domestic and homegrown violent extremism and radicalization.

"We're watching you now," Hochul said. "We know what you're up to. And we'll be coming after you."

The governor wants lawmakers to pass her bill to

make more kinds of guns subject to the state's firearm laws. Hochul, a Buffalo native, said the nation has almost become desensitized to the devastation of mass shootings and gun violence, and the spread of extremist ideology online.

"I hope to God this is the wake up call this country has needed," Hochul said, speaking to reporters in New York City.

"We believe that together these steps are necessary to confront the stem of rising hatred, widespread extremism in our state," Hochul later added.

Appearing with the governor, the Rev.

Al Sharpton said racism and violence pose an "existential threat to this country," and said he hopes Hochul's executive orders will address the spread of white supremacy and online radicalization.

"Because there was a time our parents had been running from the Klan, Ku Klux Klan," he said.

"But the Klan wore hoods hiding them from the world. We're living in a time where bigots livestream and show you who they are." □

Feds: National Guard members on state duty can join unions

By **DAVE COLLINS**

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Department of Justice has given the green light to National Guard members on active duty for their states to join labor unions,

despite a U.S. law that makes it a felony for military personnel on active federal duty to unionize. The agreement, finalized Tuesday, settles a lawsuit filed in federal court in Connecticut by labor unions against

Attorney General Merrick Garland and the Justice Department, seeking collective bargaining rights for Connecticut National Guard members on state duty ordered by the governor.

Already, the case has prompted some National Guard members in Texas to unionize.

A 1978 federal law makes it a criminal felony for members of the armed forces, including the National Guard, to join or attempt to form a labor organization. But the statute only applies to service members when they are on active federal duty ordered by U.S. military officials, according to the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School, which represented the unions in the lawsuit, filed in November.

"Before this case, unions were understandably deterred from organizing state active duty National Guard members due to the potential for criminal penalties," Rekha Kennedy, a Yale law student working for the clinic, said in statement.

"With this reassurance from the DOJ, unions nationwide can begin the process of building relationships with Guard members without fear of prosecution," Kennedy said.

Connecticut Guard members were waiting for the agreement to be finalized before beginning unionizing efforts, but some Texas National Guard members already have moved ahead with their plans, joining the Texas State Employees Union starting in February.

Texas members said they were encouraged by a January court filing in the Connecticut case where the Justice Department acknowledged the federal ban did not apply to National Guard members on state duty. Some Texas National Guard members have criticized their working and living conditions at the U.S.-Mexico border, where Gov. Greg Abbott has sent them to help in efforts to arrest migrants crossing the border.

"We've been rapidly activated with no notice, often working long shifts on irregular schedules, and living in poor conditions far from our families and homes," Texas National Guard member Hunter Schuler said in a statement Wednesday in response to the Connecticut lawsuit settlement. □



Members of the National Guard patrol outside the Capitol Building on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Jan. 14, 2021.

Associated Press

NATO talks with Finland, Sweden falter but will continue

By LORNE COOK

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO envoys failed to reach a consensus on Wednesday about whether to start membership talks with Finland and Sweden, diplomats said, as Turkey renewed its objections to the two Nordic countries joining.

The envoys met at NATO headquarters in Brussels after Finland and Sweden's ambassadors submitted written applications to join the military organization, in a move that marks one of the biggest geopolitical ramifications of Russia's war on Ukraine and which could rewrite Europe's security map.

The diplomats, who did not want to be named because of the sensitive nature of the proceedings, declined to say precisely who or what was holding up the procedure. They pointed to the messages from many of the 30 NATO allies welcoming Finland and Sweden's request.

Lithuanian Ambassador Deividas Matulionis told Swedish and Finnish media that the envoys had exchanged views about their national security. "The discussion was about that, but it is up to Turkey to com-



Finland's Ambassador to NATO Klaus Korhonen, left, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and Sweden's Ambassador to NATO Axel Wernhoff attend a ceremony to mark Sweden's and Finland's application for membership in Brussels, Belgium, Wednesday May 18, 2022.

Associated Press

ment," he said.

NATO officials also refused to provide details. They underlined remarks earlier Wednesday by Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, that "we are determined to work through all issues and reach a rapid conclusion." Meetings and diplomatic outreach aimed at resolving the problem will continue.

But Turkey is the only ally to have clearly voiced its opposition. President Recep Tayyip Erdogan insists that

Finland and Sweden must show more respect for Turkish sensitivities about terrorism. He is refusing to budge over what he says is their alleged support for Kurdish militants.

Erdogan accuses the two countries of turning a blind eye to activities of the banned Kurdistan Workers Party, or PKK, even though the group is on the European Union's anti-terror blacklist.

"You will not hand over terrorists to us, but you will

ask us to allow you to join NATO. NATO is a security entity. It is a security agency. Therefore, we cannot say 'yes' to depriving this security organization of security," he said Wednesday, in an address to ruling party lawmakers.

The day had started off on an upbeat note. Stoltenberg had said that the military alliance stands ready to seize a historic moment and move quickly on allowing Finland and Sweden to join its ranks, after the two

countries submitted their membership requests.

The official applications set a security clock ticking. Russia, whose war on Ukraine spurred them to join the military organization, has warned that it wouldn't welcome such a move, and could respond.

"I warmly welcome the requests by Finland and Sweden to join NATO. You are our closest partners," Stoltenberg said. "All allies agree on the importance of NATO enlargement. We all agree that we must stand together, and we all agree that this is an historic moment which we must seize."

"This is a good day at a critical moment for our security," a beaming Stoltenberg said, as he stood alongside the two envoys, with NATO, Finnish and Swedish flags at their backs.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has demanded that the alliance stop expanding toward Russia's borders, and several NATO allies, led by the United States and Britain, have signaled that they stand ready to provide security support to Finland and Sweden should the Kremlin try to provoke or destabilize them during the time it takes to become full members. □

EU urges members to work together to renew weapons stocks

BRUSSELS (AP) — The European Union on Wednesday urged member countries to quickly replenish their depleted stocks of ammunition and military equipment, and offered financial incentives to those willing to work together to replace materiel sent to Ukraine. Many of the EU's 27 members have sent equipment to help Ukrainian troops since Russia invaded on Feb. 24. At first it was mostly ammunition, but now includes portable missiles to destroy warplanes and tanks, as well as heavier equipment.

The EU's executive branch, the European Commission, is offering a fund of 500 million euros (\$526 million) over

two years to countries willing to work in groups of at least three to replenish their stocks. Officials declined to say, for security reasons, exactly what kinds of shortages nations have.

The commission is also ready to provide incentives to encourage countries to replace their Soviet-era stocks of battle tanks, heavy artillery and armored vehicles. Some have already been supplying these to Ukraine, whose troops are trained to use them, and want to replace the equipment.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has exposed important gaps in European military thinking and equipment. Brussels wants to encour-

age EU countries to bolster their air and missile defense systems, which have been widely used in Ukraine.

The commission also aims to rapidly establish a task force to work with countries to establish exactly what their military needs are and ensure that they are not working at cross purposes when buying equipment in the short term as they respond to the security crisis sparked by the war in Ukraine. Longer term, it believes that countries should develop more drones and air-to-air refueling systems, upgrade Europe's tank and fighting vehicle armory, strengthen naval capacity and bolster the bloc's cyber defense abilities.

"Since the euro (currency) crisis in 2008, Europe has gone through a kind of silent process of disarmament. We've been stripping ourselves of arms

without saying it. We've reduced our military assets between 2008 and 2014 in a very shocking way," EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said. □



EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell speaks to the press after a meeting of EU defence ministers at the European Council building in Brussels in Brussels, Tuesday, May 17, 2022.

Associated Press

Thai archival find may resolve fate of missing WWII U.S. flyer

By **JERRY HARMER** and **TAS-SANEE VEJPONGSA**
Associated Press

U-TAPAO, Thailand (AP) —

The remains of an American airman who went missing in action in World War II may finally be on their way home, thanks to a chance discovery of records in flood-threatened archives in Thailand.

U.S. and local authorities held a solemn ceremony Wednesday at an air base in eastern Thailand to honor and repatriate remains recently recovered from a rice field in the north of the country.

At the U-Tapao naval air base on Thailand's eastern seaboard, military personnel along with Thai and American officials paid their respects. A casket containing the discovered remains was draped in the U.S. flag before being taken to the United States aboard a C-17 transport plane.

Tests at a special laboratory in Hawaii will determine if the remains are human and possibly identify the person. But circumstantial evidence has raised expectation the casket holds a long-lost service member from the U.S. Army Air Forces.

"You know, it's keeping the promise that we never



A U.S. Army soldier carries the possible remains of a WWII U.S. airman found in northern Thailand, during a repatriation ceremony Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the U-Tapao Air Base in Rayong province, eastern Thailand.

leave a person behind. Anybody's who's served in combat in any way, who's fought alongside somebody, regardless of country or nation, there's a bond that's built. We owe it to the families to find those answers, to bring those people home," said Marine Col. Matt Brannen, who heads up the Indo-Pacific directorate of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, or DPAA, the U.S. body tasked with finding

the war missing.

Thailand was officially allied to Japan in World War II and occupied by its military, making it a target for British and U.S. bombers. Inevitably, aircrew from the Allied side were lost in action.

Today, just a few American flyers who disappeared over Thailand are still unaccounted for. As time passes, the chances of finding them all but vanish unless something extraordinary

happens.

In 2011, massive floods that hit the country inundated Thailand's Air Force Museum in Bangkok. There was concern its archives might be damaged by mold. Retired Thai Air Chief Marshal Sakpinit Promthep, who indulged his passion for Second World War history by working part-time in the archival section, spent months afterward going through its files one by one to check their condition.

That's how he found himself looking at a faded document from a musty, dusty folder. It was a handwritten police officer's report dated November 1944. It detailed the crash of a U.S. P-38 plane, reported to have been struck by lightning during a storm.

It sparked a "Eureka!" reaction for the history buff who'd heard rumors of a World War II plane crash in Lampang province but had never found any record of it.

"This is a great moment in life, that we find such a thing just in front of you pop up!" he told The Associated Press. "You imagine, you look for something, you like to see it and there's no hope, almost no hope to find it. Just open page, page and then whoop! in front of your eyes."

Wow! This is what I am looking for," he enthused, smiling broadly.

"He may know that I am looking for him, searching for him for a long time," said Sakpinit, suggesting that just maybe, the pilot's spirit put those pages in front of him, in that file. "Otherwise, if there was no flood, the document's going to be hidden for maybe another year or many, maybe a long time." □

Associated Press

Mozambique declares polio outbreak linked to Pakistan

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Health authorities in Mozambique declared a polio outbreak Wednesday after confirming that a child in the country's northeastern Tete province had been paralyzed by the disease. The case in Mozambique is the second imported case of polio in southern Africa this year, following a case discovered in Malawi in mid-February. It's the first case of wild polio in Mozambique since 1992, although cases linked to a mutated virus from the oral vaccine were detected in 2019.

The latest case in Mozambique was found in a child who experienced signs of paralysis in late March, ac-

cording to a statement issued by the World Health Organization.

Sequencing indicates that the case in Mozambique is linked to a strain of polio spreading in Pakistan in

2019, similar to the case reported in Malawi earlier this year.

WHO declared Africa free of the wild polio virus in August 2020 even though numerous countries across



A baby receives a polio vaccine during the Malawi Polio Vaccination Campaign Launch in Lilongwe, Malawi, on March 20, 2022.

Associated Press

the continent have reported outbreaks linked to the vaccine in recent years. There is no difference between the disease caused by the wild virus or the mutated virus from the vaccine.

"The detection of another case of wild poliovirus in Africa is greatly concerning, even if it's unsurprising given the recent outbreak in Malawi.

However, it shows how dangerous this virus is and how quickly it can spread," said Matshidiso Moeti, the World Health Organization's Africa director.

In response to the case in neighboring Malawi, Mozambique recently carried out two mass vaccination campaigns in which 4.2

million children were vaccinated against the disease, said WHO.

Disease surveillance is being strengthened in five countries: Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Vaccination campaigns in the coming weeks are planned to reach 23 million children aged five years and below. Polio is highly infectious, spread mostly via water and largely affects children younger than five years. There is no cure for polio, and it can only be prevented by immunization.

WHO and its partners began an effort to eradicate polio globally in 1988 and have missed numerous deadlines to wipe out the disease. □

Egypt: Mubarak son says family clear of corruption charges

CAIRO (AP) — The son of Egypt's former president said Tuesday that he and family members were innocent of corruption charges made in international courts after the country's 2011 popular uprising, after courts last month in Switzerland and the European Union ruled in the family's favor.

The announcement by Gamal Mubarak, the son of former Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak, came after years of attempts by the deposed president's family to rehabilitate its image as it faced litigation in Egypt and abroad. In the 20-minute long video released online and titled "Mubarak family statement on the successful conclusion of all international judicial proceedings," he portrayed the family's legal issues as resolved. He said that the announcement was prompted by media making "false allegations of corruption" against his family, but did not explain how the family had amassed its significant wealth.

"My family has decided that we simply cannot stay silent anymore in the face of such persistent defamatory reporting. It is time that



Former Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, seated center left, and his two sons, Gamal Mubarak, left, and Alaa Mubarak attend a hearing in a courtroom in Cairo, Egypt on Sept. 14, 2013.

Associated Press

the family responds, and directly," he said.

In February, a massive leak of Credit Suisse clients' information showed Gamal Mubarak and his brother, Alaa, to have held at least \$197.5 million in the bank at one point in time. The 2011 protests were built on calls for an end to deep-rooted embezzlement and government corruption in Egypt, and growing concerns that Gamal Mubarak would be

set up to succeed his father, who was in power for nearly 30 years. The international anti-corruption group Transparency International has estimated that as president, Mubarak stole some \$70 billion in public funds. The former president died in 2020, aged 91.

In April, Swiss prosecutors decided not to file charges after concluding a decade-long investigation into alleged money

laundering and organized crime linked to linked to Mubarak's circles in Egypt. They also said they would release some 400 million Swiss francs - \$430 million - frozen in Swiss banks. The same month, the General Court of the European Union ruled that the rights of Mubarak's wife, two sons and their wives had not been respected during a local Egyptian investigation of his assets, on which the

prosecution was depending. The ruling meant EU sanctions on the Mubaraks' accounts were deemed unlawful, and lifted. Gamal Mubarak said his family was being reimbursed for their legal costs related to the case. Transparency International condemned the move, saying it would show other leaders around the world that they can act with impunity.

The EU and Swiss investigations were part of a series of court proceedings against the Mubaraks in the wake of the mass protests.

The father and the two sons were first detained in April 2011, two months after the uprising forced Mubarak to step down as part of the Arab Spring protest movement.

A leading military council was established in his place, which then gave way to the divisive Islamist president Mohamed Morsi after elections in 2012. Morsi was later deposed by the military amid more popular protests.

Following a lengthy trial, Hosni Mubarak was acquitted of killing protesters during the 18-day uprising against his autocratic rule. □

Brazil's top court rejects leader's complaint against judge

By **DIANE JEANTET**
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected a complaint filed by President Jair Bolsonaro in which he accused a justice of abusing his authority, marking the latest escalation of confrontations between the far-right leader and the top court.

Bolsonaro filed a complaint on Monday targeting Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who is overseeing an investigation to determine whether some of Bolsonaro's most ardent allies are running a social media network aimed at spreading threats and fake news against Supreme Court justices.

In his complaint, Bolson-

aro accused de Moraes of slow-walking the fake news inquiry and hurting his image in an electoral year. Supreme Court Justice Dias Toffoli denied the request, arguing that the facts described "do not bring evidence, even minimal," of a crime.

The complaint has broader political context as well: De Moraes will preside over the nation's electoral authority in the upcoming election, when Bolsonaro will seek a second term, and the president has repeatedly raised questions about whether the vote will be fair.

Bolsonaro began showing animosity to the Supreme Court with the opening of the so-called fake news investigation in 2019. He has been openly feuding with

the court since early in the pandemic, when justices ruled that mayors and governors have jurisdiction to determine restrictions to slow the virus's spread;

Bolsonaro was a fierce opponent of lockdowns and other restrictions. Last year, he requested the Senate move to impeach de Moraes and threatened to disregard any of the justice's rulings.

"Either the (fake news) inquiry is being unjustifiably extended to the detriment of those being investigated, since after more than thirty-six months there is not even a partial report of the investigations. Or, there are partial reports and justifications for proceeding with the inquiry that are being hidden from the defense

(attorneys)," the complaint stated.

Bolsonaro's lawyer also questioned the justification for including the president as a target of the investigation. Bolsonaro was included after organizing a live

broadcast on social media in which he contested the reliability of electronic voting machines. He has repeatedly sown doubt about the voting system, though never presented any evidence of fraud. □



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro rides a jet ski during a boat rally in his support, in Brasilia, Brazil, Sunday, May 15, 2022.

Associated Press

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Bowls Noodle Bar invites you to a Happy Hour with a unique flavor



Bowls Noodle Bar recently opened at their new location at The Village, near the High Rise Hotels. To celebrate, they are launching their new Happy Hour from 9pm to 11pm every day.

Before the pandemic, Bowls Noodle Bar opened at the Hyatt by the airport, and was in the process of opening a second location at The Village when the pandemic hit. Due to the consequences of the pandemic, they decided to close the restaurant by the airport and open their new location at The Village. Their new location has been open for about six months to great results.

At The Village, night time is the best time. This is why they are now offering a daily Happy Hour, from 9pm to 11pm. It includes \$3 beer and \$5 cocktails.

Their cocktails are made in-house with a unique fusion of Asian flavors, for example, the popular purple Ube Mojito, with the flavor of traditional Ube, a Japanese dessert; the Blue Samurai with ginger flavor; and the refreshing Fruity Blossoms, with a flavor encompassing the Sakura, the famous Japanese Cherry Blossoms. You can try all these for only \$5 each during Happy Hour.

Fusion is at the core of the unique flavors of Bowls Noodle Bar, and this is expressed beautifully in their traditional Japanese soups. They are the only restaurant in Aruba that has most of the noodles traditionally used, Udon, Ramen, and Rice noodles. Ramen noodles, served fresh, are a surprising flavor for those who are used to dried ramen noodles. They also have Jasmine rice for the rice bowls.

Their authentic soups are the highlight and star. Chef Warren explains that there are four main components to the soup: the broth, the noodles, tare, and the oil, and these are very important for the traditional Japanese soups. At Bowls Noodle Bar, they have a wide variety of flavors to cater to every taste, like the famous Pork Chashu. It comes with fresh ramen noodles, and it's the pride of Bowls Noodle Bar. Chef Warren says that the broth for this soup takes two to three days to make, and is made in-house, with fresh and delicious ingredients. They also cater to vegetarians and vegans, with various options on the menu like tofu mushroom soup, vegetable gyoza, wonton, and fresh kimchi fermented at the restaurant.

The wok concept also allows you to create your own unique dish, choosing your base, protein, vegetables and sauce.

Origin

The founders of Bowls Noodle Bar, Dexter Moreno and his partner Lai, opened their first location on Curaçao. They traveled to Japan to study Japanese Cuisine, and they fell in love with Japanese soup. Lai's parents are Chinese, and this is the start of the Asian-fusion flavors



that are both surprising and delectable, combining Japanese, Chinese and even some Korean cuisine. Chef Warren was trained in these traditional flavors by the founders themselves.

They came to Aruba where Dexter approached some ex-colleagues in the industry to open a location on the island, and with a local team, opened Bowls Noodle Bar Aruba with a more extensive menu.

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 5pm – 11:30pm; Friday and Saturday 5pm – 12pm; and Sunday 5pm – 11:30pm. Come visit for great atmosphere, delicious flavors, and a Happy Hour to remember! ☐

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Anglo Kleuterschool celebrates International Museum Day at local museum MANA



Oranjestad - The 18th of May is the International Museum Day. The goal of this day is to bring attention to the importance of museums as a method to bring community together, so that in cooperation we can mutually realize the cultural exchange that has taken place over the years, as well as to enrich our own cultures.

Museums have the power to transform the world by teaching us of our past and opening our minds to new ideas for the future.

On this important day, National Archeological Museum of Aruba (MANA) organized a beautiful event in which students of local kindergarten Anglo Kleuterschool went to visit. The Prime Minister and Minister of Culture of Aruba were both

present at the event as well.

It is important to instruct our kids from a young age about the power in museums. This is also the theme of this year. "I spoke to them and explained to them that by coming to the museum, you learn more about yourself, you go through many adventures and expand your knowledge in the same way as when you travel," said the Prime Minister.

It is very important to know our roots and know from where we come from starting at an early age.

The students of Anglo Kleuterschool are kids of only 4 to 6 years old. At this age, they have a lot of interests and have a very big imagination;

however their curiosity is much bigger. "I'm very happy that we were able to organize this event. I express my gratitude to Anglo Kleuterschool and SKOA for this opportunity and MANA for helping us with the organization of this beautiful event in celebration of museums. Congratulations to each person who contributed to this cause," the Prime Minister concluded.

We encourage the community of Aruba in general as well as our esteemed visitors to visit our museums and stimulate our kids and each other to visit museums.

"Stimulate kids to learn more about Aruba and stimulate their curiosity. Because this is the way they can grow to become intelligent and guide our country tomorrow." □

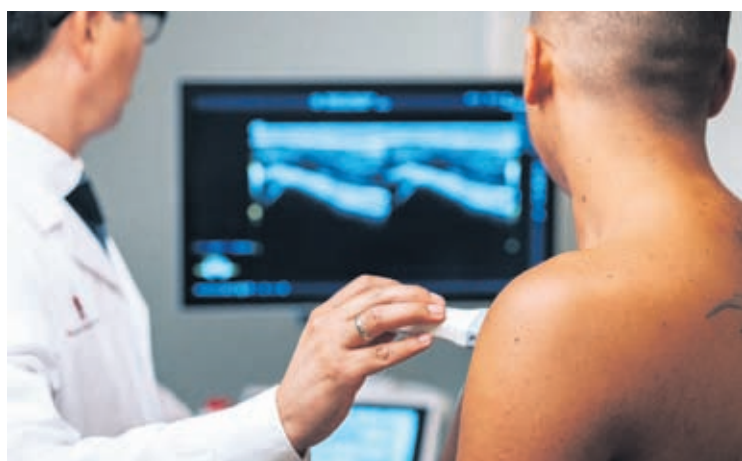
Urgent Care vs. Emergency Room: Where should you go?



Imagine yourself arriving on the beautiful island of Aruba. You've scheduled your days with exciting activities or to relax by the beach or pool. Of course, the least you would expect is to get

sick or become in need of medical assistance. Because honestly, who does that while on vacation?

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the Urgent Care Aruba is X-Ray (Without Appointment), Ultrasound (With Appointment), and Gynecology Services (With Appointment). Visit us to assess your symptoms, and we'll provide you with a proper diagnosis and treatment since we will also provide you with a prescription if deemed necessary.

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Can I have a ..., please?

ORANJESTAD — Want to taste something different for a change?? How about a different breakfast from what you are used to at your hotel. Hop in your car, drive around and anywhere around the island you will come across a local snack shop.

Here you will find all types of snacks loved by the lo-

cals. Try a pastechi, a Caribbean pastry filled with cheese or meat and fried up deliciously. Or perhaps you might want to try a croquette, a crusty little meat ball. A dedito is also a good option, it's a stick made out of cheese or hotdog. If you want to try something more familiar go for a home-made hamburger or a ham and cheese toast, but



with a local touch. All these snacks are ridiculously addictive.

Freshen up with a delicious fruit shake (batido) made out of watermelon, strawberry, banana, papaya or just mix any fruit together. What makes these little snack shops more attractive is the warmth of its people and with the smile you are being served.



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Millennial Money: Learn your parents' financial plans ASAP

By LAURA MCMULLEN
of NerdWallet

My mom died at age 61, when I was 31. Seeing her headstone in a field of others smacked me with a brutal, if obvious fact: Everyone, including everyone's parents, will die.

I promise I'm not trying to depress you. I want to prepare you, as this loss can happen sooner than you'd expect. And when parents die, it's often up to their children to manage not just grief but also financial tasks. Planning for those to-do's now could help later, when you experience what may be some of your hardest days. "We surely ought to have some idea of what we're facing," says Melanie Cullen, San Francisco Bay Area-based author of "Get It Together: Organize Your Records So Your Family Won't Have To." She adds: "On the other side of it, our parents need to know we're interested, we care, we're there to help." Here's why, how and what to talk about with your parents.

WHY MUST I DISCUSS THIS MORBID TOPIC?

Without documented plans for your parents' end-of-life finances, you may wind up scraping for cash.

Say you weren't given access to your parents' financial accounts in the case of incapacitation or death. What would happen if your parents were too sick to manage their finances? You would need to pay



In this April 14, 2016, file photo, a son, at right, holds his mother's hand as they talk at her nursing home in Adrian, Mich.

Associated Press

their bills but couldn't tap their money to do so. Then you couldn't use their money for their funeral, which could cost thousands of dollars.

Many caregivers wind up "digging into their own money," says AARP family caregiving expert Amanda Singleton. You can't save or invest money that's covering your parents' expenses, she adds. And if you're short on cash, you may take on debt.

Beyond this potential financial hit, your parents' plans and wishes are less likely to be fulfilled if you don't know what they are.

For example, in the months when my mom was dying,

we never discussed her funeral. So when I planned it, I was engulfed in both grief and guesswork.

My family spent an enormous sum of money on an open-casket service, in part because we didn't know what to do and struggled to focus on the decision. I suspect that my thrifty, camera-shy mom would have preferred a simple (and less expensive) cremation.

HOW DO I FRAME THE CONVERSATION?

Broach the subject with sensitivity and respect. Personal finance is an uncomfortable topic for many. Now your parents must talk about both money and

death with their kid.

Your parents have likely attended more funerals than you and may have managed their own parents' deaths. Consider tapping those experiences to start your conversation, suggests Singleton, who's also an estate-planning attorney in St. Petersburg, Florida. Ask how they handled their loved ones' end-of-life care.

Did Grandma have an up-to-date will and make her financial information easy for your parents to find? Maybe they can follow her lead.

Or if your parents had to sort out messy finances, recalling that experience

could prompt them to get organized. Another option: Lead with a topical or personal prompt. That's what Mark Schrader, a Charlotte, North Carolina-based certified financial planner, did with his mom. When his CFP courses covered certain planning-related topics, he would bring up what he was learning and ask about her intentions.

If you've learned about end-of-life planning on your own — say, in an article — or are making your own arrangements, let your parents know and ask for their point of view.

"Make it a planning and preparation conversation," says Schrader, who's also a financial planning strategist at TIAA, a retirement-planning organization. "It's not as much about the numbers or 'how much do you have in these accounts?' but 'what accounts do you have, and how can I help if for some reason you couldn't be there?'"

WHAT SHOULD WE COVER?

Ask if your parents have a power of attorney for finances. This legal document names someone who can make money decisions on their behalf. Also learn whether they have similar documents for medical care, such as an advanced care directive, health care proxy or power of attorney for health care.

A living will can be helpful, since this document outlines what they might want for end-of-life care. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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5-19

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-19

CRYPTOQUOTE

I F A T C F R E H F M D F C F D W

L J F F I D M M L I F A T C F W E

N A E D N F — D P T T N H T P A F C D P

P D W S F J

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FORTUNE LOVES TO GIVE SLIPPERS TO THOSE WITH WOODEN LEGS, AND GLOVES TO THOSE WITH NO HANDS. — THEOPHILE GAUTIER



An investigator works at the scene of a shooting at a supermarket, in Buffalo, N.Y., Monday, May 16, 2022.

Associated Press

Livestreamed carnage: Tech's hard lessons from mass killings

By BARBARA ORTUTAY, HALELUYA HADERO and MATT O'BRIEN
AP Technology Writers

These days, mass shooters like the one now held in the Buffalo, New York, supermarket attack don't stop with planning out their brutal attacks. They also create marketing plans while arranging to livestream their massacres on social platforms in hopes of fomenting more violence. Sites like Twitter, Facebook and now the game-streaming platform Twitch have learned painful lessons from dealing with the violent videos that often accompany such shootings. But experts are calling for a broader discussion around livestreams, including whether they should exist at all, since once such videos go online, they're almost impossible to erase completely.

The self-described white supremacist gunman who police say killed 10 people,

all of them Black, at a Buffalo supermarket Saturday had mounted a GoPro camera to his helmet to stream his assault live on Twitch, the video game streaming platform used by another shooter in 2019 who killed two people at a synagogue in Halle, Germany. He had previously outlined his plan in a detailed but rambling set of online diary entries that were apparently posted publicly ahead of the attack, although it's not clear how many people might have seen them. His goal: to inspire copycats and spread his racist beliefs. After all, he was a copycat himself.

He decided against streaming on Facebook, as yet another mass shooter did when he killed 51 people at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand, three years ago. Unlike Twitch, Facebook requires users to sign up for an account in order to watch

livestreams. Still, not everything went according to plan. By most accounts the platforms responded more quickly to halt the spread of the Buffalo video than they did after the 2019 Christchurch shooting, said Megan Squire, a senior fellow and technology expert at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Another Twitch user watching the live video likely flagged it to the attention of Twitch's content moderators, she said, which would have helped Twitch pull down the stream less than two minutes after the first gunshots per a company spokesperson. Twitch has not said how the video was flagged. In a statement about the shooting Tuesday, the company expressed thanks "for the user reports that help us catch and remove harmful content in real time."

"In this case, they did pretty well," Squire said. "The fact that the video is so hard to find right now is proof of that."

That was little consolation to family members of the victims. Celestine Chaney's son, Wayne Jones, found out his mother had been killed when someone sent him a video screenshot from the livestream. Not long after, he saw the video itself. □

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This Dec. 6, 2018 image made available by NASA shows the InSight lander. The scene was assembled from 11 photos taken using its robotic arm.
Associated Press

Dusty demise for NASA Mars lander in July; power dwindling

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — A NASA spacecraft on Mars is headed for a dusty demise.

The Insight lander is losing power because of all the dust on its solar panels. NASA said Tuesday it will keep using the spacecraft's seismometer to register marsquakes until the power peters out, likely in July. □



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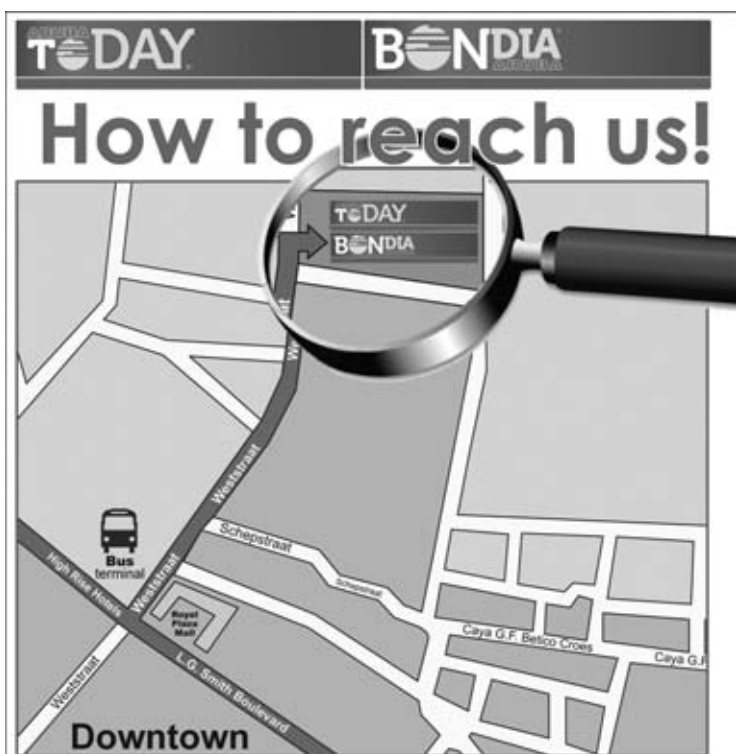
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Besties and former 'The Office' co-stars write on friendship

By ALICIA RANCILIO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Spoiler alert: Jenna Fischer and Angela Kinsey obviously knew how "The Office" ended its nine-year run on NBC, because, after all, they filmed it but revisiting that time for their new book, "Office BFFs: Tales of The Office from Two Best Friends Who Were There," was still something they put off.

"I have not watched the finale episode in full even now," confessed Fischer, who played receptionist Pam Beasley, recently over Zoom. "I just watched the parts that I had to write about in the book because it's too emotional for me." Kinsey, however, "watched the whole thing."

"I boohooed through it. When we were writing about it, I started crying," said Kinsey, who played the stickler, cat-loving accountant, Angela Martin. The real-life best friends and former co-stars have put their memories to good use, with both "Office BFFs" and a re-watch podcast called "Office Ladies." They're more than halfway through season six of the series. In "Office BFFs," they also document the growth of their friendship from when they first bonded while filming an episode in season one to Kinsey being at Fischer's side when she broke her back while attending an NBC party in New York during the hiatus between seasons three and four.



Angela Kinsey, left, and Jenna Fischer, friends and former co-stars of the comedy series "The Office" pose for photos in Glendale, Calif., Tuesday, March 22, 2022, to promote their book "The Office BFFs: Tales of The Office from Two Best Friends Who Were There."

Associated Press

Fischer and Kinsey talked recently to The Associated Press about their book, the podcast and their friendship. Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

AP: How do you remember so clearly what happened to be able to fill a podcast and a book?

Fischer: We are big journalists so we journaled about our days on set. And Angela is a digital hoarder. She kept every email I ever sent her. It was so great. When I was writing the chapter on the romance between (characters) Jim and Pam, she had an old email that I had written her. She forwarded that to me, and I was able to use that.

AP: Is there anything you've saved specifically for the podcast and other things for the book? Or was there overlap?

Kinsey: The podcast is a true re-watch. And the book is our personal journey as two gals who are not from show business or Hollywood ... just try and figure out what it means to be on a show and navigate a red carpet and how to do interviews and all those things you don't learn in an acting class. And we were horrible at it. Those are things we don't really talk about on the podcast.

AP: You've started these businesses together and

pivoted into a new career path, marketing on yourselves rather than characters. Do you want to inspire others in making career changes by thinking outside-the-box?

Kinsey: I turned 50 and I didn't think I would be trying anything new in my career at 50. And here I am, learning how to do a podcast and writing a book with my best friend. I just think of other women I've always looked up to who reinvented themselves later in life and that you don't have to say, "Oh, I can't do that or it's too late." It's not too late, it's really not. That's something I would want to share with other folks out there.

AP: Both the podcast and the book introduce fans to the people behind-the-scenes of "The Office" who helped make the show, such as editors, props people and your wardrobe and hair department. It must be gratifying to give them some of the spotlight. Fischer: One of my favorite pieces of mail that we got is someone wrote to tell us, "All those names that I see scroll by in the credits at the end of the episode, now I feel like I know everybody." I'm so proud of that.

AP: In the first episode of your podcast, Jenna, you made a comment about how many episodes you two had ahead of you to recap and you sounded overwhelmed and maybe even scared. Is it funny to think about that now?

Fischer: Yes. There's 201 episodes of "The Office" and to imagine doing 201 things of something that you're not sure you know how to do is very daunting. We're definitely in a groove now. We're more than halfway finished and now we're starting to talk about what can we do next.

AP: Are you seriously thinking about what else you can do together?

Kinsey: Rainn Wilson (who played Dwight on "The Office") will tell you, we love to chat. So I think, we have a few ideas for what "Office Ladies" would be after we break down all the episodes." □

Helen Mirren, Harrison Ford to star in 'Yellowstone' prequel



Helen Mirren appears at the 14th annual L'Oreal Paris Women of Worth Gala in New York on Dec. 4, 2019, left, and Harrison Ford appears at the premiere of "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" in Los Angeles on Dec. 16, 2019.

Associated Press

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Helen Mirren and Harrison Ford will bring their combined star power to the newest addition to the "Yellowstone" TV franchise.

The pair will headline a Paramount+ series with the working title "1932," which joins "1883" as part of what the streaming service called the "origin story" of its "Yellowstone" drama series.

Mirren and Ford are among the growing ranks of film

actors who have added small-screen projects to their resume as streaming services vie for subscribers with prestige projects and big names.

The latest chapter in the Dutton family saga will be set in an early 20th century and a Mountain West beset by drought and the Great Depression, among other ills, Paramount+ said. It will debut in December.

Writer-producer Taylor Sheridan is the creative force behind the hit franchise, which began with

the contemporary drama "Yellowstone," led by Kevin Costner. The "1883" prequel stars Faith Hill and Tim McGraw.

Mirren is among today's most highly regarded actors, a four-time Oscar nominee who won for her portrayal of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II in 2006's "The Queen."

Ford's extensive blockbuster movie credits include the "Star Wars" and "Raiders of the Lost Ark" franchises. He was an Oscar nominee for the 1985 film "Witness." □

U.S. Soccer equalizes pay in milestone with women, men

By **ANNE M. PETERSON** and
RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writers

The U.S. Soccer Federation reached milestone agreements to pay its men's and women's teams equally, making the American national governing body the first in the sport to promise both sexes matching money. The federation on Wednesday announced separate collective bargaining agreements through December 2028 with the unions for both national teams, ending years of often acrimonious negotiations. The deals grew partly out of a push by players on the more successful women's team, including stars like Alex Morgan and Megan Rapinoe, who were at the forefront of the gender equity fight while leading the team to a Women's World Cup championship in 2019. The struggle became so much a part of the team's story that chants of "Equal pay! Equal pay!" rose from the crowd as U.S. players celebrated winning the title in France.

Morgan and Rapinoe could still be beneficiaries of the deal, though the next Women's World Cup is in 2023 and the make-up of the team will have changed by then. "I feel a lot of pride for the girls who are going to see this growing up, and recognize their value rather than having to fight for it. However, my dad always



Former members and members of the U.S. Women's National soccer team, from left, Briana Scurry, Margaret 'Midge' Purce, Kelley O'Hara, Julie Foudy, and Cindy Parlow Cone, President of U.S. Soccer, pose for a photo with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., before an event to celebrate Equal Pay Day and Women's History Month in the East Room of the White House, Tuesday, March 15, 2022, in Washington.

told me that you don't get rewarded for doing what you're supposed to do and paying men and women equally is what you're supposed to do," U.S. forward Margaret Purce said. "So I'm not giving out any gold stars, but I'm grateful for this accomplishment and for all the people who came together to make it so." The men have been playing under the terms of a CBA that expired in December 2018. The women's CBA expired at the end of March, but talks continued after the federation and the players agreed to settle a gender discrimination lawsuit brought by some of the players in 2019. The settlement was contingent

on the federation reaching labor contracts that equalized pay and bonuses between the two teams. Perhaps the biggest sticking point was World Cup prize money, which is based on how far a team advances in the tournament. While the U.S. women have been successful on the international stage with back-to-back World Cup titles, differences in FIFA prize money meant they took home far less than the men's winners. American women received a \$110,000 bonus for winning the 2019 World Cup; the U.S. men would have received \$407,000 had they won in 2018. The unions agreed to pool FIFA's payments for the

men's World Cup later this year and next year's Women's World Cup, as well as for the 2026 and 2027 tournaments. Each player will get matching game appearance fees in what the USSF said makes it the first federation to pool FIFA prize money in this manner. "We saw it as an opportunity, an opportunity to be leaders in this front and join in with the women's side and U.S. Soccer. So we're just excited that this is how we were able to get the deal done," said Walker Zimmerman, a defender who is part of the U.S. National Team Players Association leadership group. Women's union projections

have compensation for a player who has been under contract to increase 34% from 2018 to this year, from \$245,000 to \$327,000. The 2023-28 average annual pay would be \$450,000 for a player making all rosters, with the possibility of doubling the figure in World Cup years depending on results. The federation previously based bonuses on payments from FIFA, which earmarked \$400 million for the 2018 men's tournament, including \$38 million to champion France, and \$30 million for the 2019 women's tournament, including \$4 million to the champion United States. FIFA has increased the total to \$440 million for the 2022 men's World Cup, and its president, Gianni Infantino, has proposed that FIFA double the women's prize money to \$60 million for the 2023 Women's World Cup, in which FIFA has increased the number of teams to 32. For the current World Cup cycles, the USSF will pool the FIFA funds, taking 10% off the top and then splitting the rest equally among 46 players 23 players on the roster of each team. For the 2026-27 cycle, the USSF cut increases to 20% before the split. After missing the 2018 World Cup, the men qualified for this year's World Cup in Qatar starting in November. The women's team will seek to qualify this year for the 2023 World Cup, cohosted by Australia and New Zealand. □

Defending champion Ruud wins, 3 seeds go out at Geneva Open

GENEVA (AP) — Defending champion Casper Ruud eased into the quarterfinals of the Geneva Open on Wednesday, while three seeded players went out in the second round. The second-seeded Ruud won 6-3, 6-1 against Benoit Paire to confirm his status as the favorite to retain his title after second-ranked Daniil Medvedev was beaten Tuesday by Richard Gas-

quet. Third-seeded Denis Shapovalov also lost his opening match, 6-4, 6-7 (2), 6-3 against Ilya Ivashka. In a match with few break points, Ivashka saved the only one he faced against Shapovalov and converted one chance in each of the two sets he won. Ivashka will next face unseeded Joao Sousa who won 6-4, 6-3 against fifth-

seeded Nikoloz Basilashvili. Seventh-seeded Federico Delbonis fell to a 1-6, 7-5, 7-5 loss against Thanasi Kokkinakis, who will face Ruud in the quarterfinals Thursday. Fourth-seeded American Reilly Opelka ended a streak of early tournament exits in Munich, Madrid and Rome by beating Australian qualifier Christopher O'Connell 6-3, 7-5. □



Casper Ruud of Norway, returns a ball to Benoit Paire, of France, during their second round match, at the ATP 250 Geneva Open tournament in Geneva, Switzerland, Wednesday, May 18, 2022. Associated Press

Old Man & The Filly: Lukas saddling Secret Oath in Preakness

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — D.

Wayne Lukas sat atop his pony just after 6 a.m. and stared at Secret Oath while she got a bath following her first trip to the track at Pimlico Race Course.

Lukas believes she could be one of the best fillies he has ever had. That belief and her winning the Kentucky Oaks in impressive fashion the day before the Derby inspired him to enter Secret Oath in the Preakness Stakes, where she could give the 86-year-old Hall of Fame trainer a record-tying seventh victory in the second jewel of the Triple Crown.

"She gives you reason every day to feel good," Lukas said from his usual spot



Luis Saez rides Secret Oath, center front, across the finish line to win the 148th running of the Kentucky Oaks horse race at Churchill Downs Friday, May 6, 2022, in Louisville, Ky.

Associated Press

in the corner of the stakes barn at Pimlico, where he holds court every morning as horse racing's elder statesman. "The best is still in front of her." The best horse in the Derby isn't in the way, after the owner of Rich Strike decided not to run him in the Preakness after the 80-1 upset at Churchill Downs. To become the seventh filly to win the Preakness, Secret Oath will have to beat favorite and Derby runner-up Epicenter, which would put her in the company of the likes of 2009 champion Rachel Alexandra and Swiss Skydiver, who beat Authentic in this race in 2020. Lukas knows all about fantastic female horses, having trained 15 who won the Eclipse Award for the top filly of the year. Winning Colors in 1988 became one of just three fillies to win the Kentucky Derby, and Secret Oath two weeks ago gave him a fifth victory in the Oaks. She could have run in the Black-Eyed Susan Stakes on Friday, but Lukas was willing to roll the dice on Secret Oath being better than the colts this time after finishing third in the Arkansas Derby in April.

"She'll catch them. Whether she will run by them, we'll find out," said Lukas, who cited Secret Oath's turn of foot as her biggest asset. "She's got that acceleration. She runs along with them. And when they ask her to move, she's got a devastating kick. She breaks their hearts."

Two time Triple Crown-winning trainer and good friend Bob Baffert told Lukas that Secret Oath reminded him of Arrogate, who he considered the best horse of his career. Secret Oath is the daughter of Arrogate and glides more like him than Lukas' star fillies of decades past. "She's got more to do, but she's got a chance to be as good as any of them," Lukas said. "I don't think that's out of line. We're talking about one that, she gets over the ground better than any of them I've had. Her efficiency: boy, she is a pretty mover." □

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